



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Region to receive \$1.5 million aimed at creating new jobs in emerging industries, shortage occupations

WARSAW, Ind. (June 7, 2006) – North central Indiana will be awarded a grant from the state of Indiana for \$1,583,112 to create new jobs in the region's life sciences manufacturing and health care industries, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant awarded is part of the Daniels administration's Strategic Skills Initiative, a one-year old workforce development program begun last year.

"On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are excited to present this award to help local officials address a number of key occupational and workforce issues in the region," Stiver said. "Today's grant will build on the region's existing strengths, while helping position the area for continued growth in the future. This grant will prepare Hoosiers for good-paying jobs in several important areas that are projected to have a shortage of workers."

Among the solutions proposed by regional leaders is an Orthopedic Skills Center to build the capacity of skilled workers to further sustain growth in the industry. Under this proposal, students will enroll in advanced manufacturing training to address the specific needs of advanced manufacturing in the life sciences industry. Students will earn the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council certification.

In addition, regional leaders have proposed these other solutions, which will be funded from the state grant:

- *English as Second Language training for nurses* – To further address the region's projected shortage of nurses, English as a second language courses will be offered to assist limited English speaking students pass the nursing board examinations. The region projects that this program will lead to an increase in the number of nursing students and relieve shortage of the demand for bilingual nurses. Twenty nurses will be trained annually under this program, and 15 new Registered Nurses will help alleviate the regional shortage of this occupation.

- *Mannequins and Simulators* – Nursing students will be trained using mannequins and simulators. The aim of this initiative is to increase the passing rate at nursing certification exams and to establish an overall higher retention rate among nursing students and nurses in the region. Six additional students per clinical site will receive this training.
- *Respiratory Therapist Program* – Ivy Tech Community College at South Bend will establish an academic program in respiratory therapy to boost enrollment in the region and to address projected shortages in the field throughout the region. Between 14 and 24 Hoosiers will be trained annually under this initiative, and the addition of 12 Respiratory Therapists will help relieve this shortage occupation.
- *Expansion of the Master of Science in Nursing program* – Indiana University at South Bend will add one Master of Science Nursing (MSN) qualified instructor to boost enrollment and will enter into partnerships with area hospitals to develop more clinical space. An additional ten to fifteen Registered Nurses are projected to enroll in the college's MSN program annually.

Stiver praised the collaborative nature of the projects, noting that representatives from the public and private sector, labor and industry, higher education, and workforce and economic development officials all worked together to develop the initiatives.

The state's Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$270,195 was awarded to this region for research and to identify the occupations, industries and skills projected to be in short supply. Today's grant provides the region with funds to build on that research through specific projects which address those shortages.

The grant has been awarded to the new regional workforce board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state's economic growth Region 2. The region includes St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Kosciusko, and Fulton counties.

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Strategic Skills Initiative

Economic Growth Region 2



Mitch Daniels, Governor
Ron Stiver, Commissioner
June 2006

About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

About Region 2

- Population (July 2005)
605,204
 - Labor Force (March 2006)
315,420
 - Unemployment (March 2006)
5.0%
 - Per Capita Income
\$30,697 in 2004
- Source: www.hoosierdata.in.gov

Counties in Region

- St. Joseph
- Elkhart
- Marshall
- Kosciusko
- Fulton



INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 2

Economic Growth Region 2 is comprised of five counties. The SSI research & identification allocation awarded in September of 2005 was \$270,195. The solutions allocation awarded in June 2006 is \$1,583,112. Methods used to define shortages, causes and develop solutions included: research; focus groups; a health care summit; surveys; and, online research.

Key Occupational Shortages	Projection 2005-2007
Registered Nurses	174
Frontline Supervisors	160
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, Brazers	158
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators	75
Painters, Transportation Equipment	65

Emerging Industries / Occupations

Cytogenic Technologists
Orthotists
Orthopedic Cast Technologists
Biostatisticians

Root Causes

Traditional Manufacturing Perceptions

- Low skills, production and wages; lack of innovative workplace practices

Education and Training Capacity

- Lack of basic skills; limited training opportunities; lack of qualified nursing instructors

Career Awareness

- Inaccurate image of manufacturing; K-12 system not providing sufficient career awareness

Wage Rates and Benefits

- Low overall wages and lack of training

Identified Solutions →

Identified Solutions

1.

Solution: <i>Orthopedic Skills Center</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$928,171</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Advanced manufacturing training will be offered to specifically address the needs of the life sciences industry. Students will earn the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council's certification which will lead to opportunities for increasingly advanced certifications. The training will support the orthopedic industry in Kosciusko County and emerging industries.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 338 Hoosiers trained • 280 completing solution • 280 earning MSSC certifications for high performance manufacturing • 280 placed in shortage occupations

2.

Solution: <i>ESL + RN = Filling the Gap</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$22,416</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Educational assistance will be provided to Spanish speaking students interested in nursing. Through a healthcare oriented English as a second language class, the region will introduce non English speaking residents to the nursing profession. The region aims to increase the number of Spanish speaking nurses, advance skills and fill an occupational shortage with this solution.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 Hoosiers trained annually • 15 RN certifications earned • 15 placed in shortage occupations

3.

Solution: <i>Mannequin & Simulation Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$204,155</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Nursing students will be trained through the innovative methodology using mannequins and simulators. The region will benefit greatly from this strategy as it allows students to perform complex procedures repeatedly and develop a better mastery of skills. The solution also increases potential for increased training capacity and higher retention of nursing students.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 additional students per clinical site

Identified Solutions

4.

Solution: <i>Respiratory Therapist Program</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$288,270</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>An academic program in Respiratory Therapy will be developed at Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, including the purchase of a laboratory and equipment. The region anticipates that 100% of the current hospital demand for respiratory therapists will be met by the program's third year.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-24 Hoosiers trained annually • 12 Respiratory Therapy degrees earned • 10 placed in shortage occupations

5.

Solution: <i>Master of Science in Nursing</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$140,100</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) will receive funding for one MSN qualified instructor. IUSB will secure partnerships with area hospitals to develop more clinical space. Through these strategies, capacity for training in the region will increase by 10-15 students annually enrolled in MSN programs. In turn, this will also increase the number of qualified instructors. This solution increases skills of the region as well as long term training capacity.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-15 Hoosiers trained annually • 8 MSN graduates annually • 6 MSN candidates entering teaching

*Solution Totals**\$1,583,112**382 Hoosiers Trained**315 certifications earned**304 placed in shortage occupations*